

C1 B1 Eval. wherein the shuttle member is configured to extend outside the fluid chamber and to permit fluid flow from the open end of the blunting probe into the fluid chamber.

B2 5. (amended) The needle assembly of any one of claims 1 or 3 wherein the shuttle member defines a non-perforating cavity within which the blunting probe is mounted.

B3 6. (twice amended) The needle assembly of any one of claims 1 or 3 wherein the shuttle member is perforated to permit fluid flow from the rearward open end of the blunting probe therein to the fluid chamber.

B4 7. (amended) The needle assembly of any one of claims 1 or 3 wherein the shuttle member comprises an extension connected to the blunting probe in a manner which permits fluid flow from the end of the blunting probe to the fluid chamber.

B5 11. (twice amended) A blunable needle assembly comprising:
a needle component comprising a housing and a needle cannula mounted in the housing, the needle cannula having a sharp tip; and
a blunting component comprising a shuttle member and a tubular, non-perforated blunting probe mounted on the shuttle member, the shuttle member defining a fluid chamber and an access port for fluid flow, and the blunting probe having a blunt tip and a rearward end open to the fluid chamber;
wherein the blunting probe is disposed within the needle cannula and the needle component and the blunting component are configured for movement from a sharpened configuration to locking engagement in a blunted configuration with a detent and stay engagement between them, the detent being movable between (i) a locking position in which it may bear against the stay and prevent the needle assembly from moving to the sharpened configuration and (ii) an unlocked position which permits the needle assembly to move to the sharpened configuration.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 15-17 are pending in the subject application and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.